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Policy Update highlights the latest research, analysis, and statistics from the Social Security Administration's Office of Policy. It appears quarterly on the Web (<http://www.socialsecurity.gov/policy>) and in each issue of the *Social Security Bulletin*. It includes summaries of all recent products and identifies work done by outside researchers funded through a cooperative agreement with SSA. Information about the availability of the publications is given in each section.

Publications

Documents from the Office of Policy are available at <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/policy>. For information about the availability of printed copies, please e-mail op.publications@ssa.gov, call 202-358-6274, or fax 202-358-6192.

International Programs

Social Security Programs Throughout the World: Asia and the Pacific, 2004

(released March 2005)

This publication provides a cross-national comparison of the social security systems. It summarizes the five main social insurance programs: old age, disability, and survivors; sickness and maternity; work injury; unemployment; and family allowances. It is published in four regional volumes (Europe, Asia and the Pacific, Africa, and the Americas), one every 6 months.

Online: www.socialsecurity.gov/policy/docs/progdesc/ssptw/2004-2005/asia/index.html

Socioeconomic Characteristics

Income of the Population 55 or Older, 2002

(released March 2005)

This biennial report includes more than 70 statistical tables with data on the major sources and amounts of income for people aged 55 or older and their total income and poverty status.

Online: www.socialsecurity.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/income_pop55/2002/index.html

Supplemental Security Income

SSI Disabled Recipients Who Work, December 2003

(released February 2005)

This quarterly report presents data on all SSI disabled recipients who work, Section 1619 participants, and recipients who benefit from other work incentive programs.

Online: www.socialsecurity.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/ssi_workers/2003-12/index.html

Children Receiving SSI, December 2003

(released March 2005)

The tables in this semiannual report provide a snapshot of selected program and demographic characteristics of children who receive Supplemental Security Income.

Online: www.socialsecurity.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/ssi_children/2003/index.html

SSI Recipients by State and County, 2004

(released March 2005)

Local area data for the Supplemental Security Income program for aged, blind, and disabled people are the focus of this annual statistical report. The data are for federal SSI payments and for federally administered state supplementation.

Online: www.socialsecurity.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/ssi_sc/2004/index.html

Other

Social Security Bulletin, Vol. 65 No. 3

(released January 2005)

Includes articles on:

- The Changing Impact of Social Security on Retirement Income in the United States
- Disability, Welfare Reform, and Supplemental Security Income
- The Economic Consequences of a Husband's Death: Evidence from the HRS and AHEAD
- The Effect of the SSI Program on Labor Supply: Improved Evidence from Social Security Administrative Files

Online: www.socialsecurity.gov/policy/docs/ssb/v65n3/index.html

Papers from the Retirement Research Consortium

The Retirement Research Consortium comprises three multidisciplinary centers that are funded through a cooperative agreement with the Social Security Administration. The centers are located at Boston College, the University of Michigan, and the National Bureau of Economic Research. These centers provide research and policy analysis to inform decisionmakers about issues critical to Social Security's retirement program.

Boston College

The following papers are available on the Center for Retirement Research Web site (<http://www.bc.edu/crr>) or by e-mail from crr@bc.edu.

What Makes Retirees Happy?

Keith A. Bender and Natalia A. Jivan

BCCRR Issue in Brief No. 28 (February 2005)

Lashed to the Mast? The Politics of Notional Defined Contribution Pension Reforms

Sarah M. Brooks and R. Kent Weaver

BCCRR Working Paper No. 2005-04 (January 2005)

Understanding Expenditure Patterns in Retirement

Barbara A. Butrica, Joshua H. Goldwyn, and Richard W. Johnson

BCCRR Working Paper No. 2005-03 (January 2005)

Changes in the Distribution of Long-Run Earnings and Retirement Incomes—Have Recent Cohorts Fallen Behind?

Peter Gottschalk and Minh Huynh

BCCRR Working Paper No. 2005-02 (January 2005)

The Age Profile of Income and the Burden of Unfunded Transfers in Four Countries: Evidence from the Luxembourg Income Study

Gary Burtless

BCCRR Working Paper No. 2005-01 (January 2005)

University of Michigan

Summaries of the projects on which the following papers are based are available on the Retirement Research Center Web site (http://www.mrrc.isr.umich.edu/content.cfm?section=research&content=research_projects). The papers can be requested by e-mail from mrrc@isr.umich.edu.

Changes in Consumption and Activities at Retirement

Michael Hurd and Susann Rohwedder

Project No. UM04-13 (March 2005)

Valuing Lost Home Production for Dual-Earner Couples

John Laitner, Christopher House, and Dmitriy Stolyarov

Project No. UM04-14 (March 2005)

The Impact of the 1972 Social Security Benefit Increase on Household Consumption

Melvin Stephens

Project No. UM04-05 (February 2005)

Measuring Social Security's Financial Problems

Jagadeesh Gokhale and Kent Smetters

Project No. UM04-04 (January 2005)

Saving Shortfalls and Delayed Retirement

Andrew Au, Olivia S. Mitchell, and John W.R. Phillips

Project No. UM04-C1 (January 2005)

Social Security Privatization with Elastic Labor Supply and Second-Best Taxes

Kent Smetters

Project No. UM04-02 (January 2005)

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